CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method of automatically generating payment for electronic billing data <u>for services rendered</u>, comprising the steps of:

automatically obtaining billing data in an electronic format from a billing party for a billable party<u>, said billing data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered</u>;

automatically comparing said billing data with rule data defined by said billable party; <u>said rule data containing billing codes; and</u>

automatically authorizing generation of payment data if said billing data satisfies said comparison with said rule data.

2.   (Original) The method of claim1, wherein said rule data are comparison statements stored in a rules database.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said payment data includes financial data for input to an accounting system of the billable party.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said payment data includes electronic funds transfer (EFT) data.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said billing data includes at least one invoice.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

automatically generating payment data for said authorized billing data; and

automatically providing said payment data to said billable party for generating automatic payment to said billing party.

2

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating a summary message specifying a billing data total amount to be paid; and

automatically electronically notifying said billing party of said summary message.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

automatically generating billing data analysis reports for review by said billable party utilizing said billing data wherein said billing data includes billing codes <u>which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered</u>.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said billing data analysis reports are for review by said billing party.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing interactive computer screens so that said billable party supplies analysis data for inclusion in billing data analysis reports.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said analysis data includes case budget data <u>including total case time, case hours, case costs, hourly rate, and case difficulty.</u>

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically electronically notifying said billing party if said billing data does not satisfy said comparison with said rule data.

14.   (Original) A computerized method for automatically processing an electronic invoice generated by a billing party for a billable party utilizing rule data defined by said billable party and an invoice processing party, said method comprising the steps of:

electronically submitting an electronic invoice to an invoice processing party for automatic evaluation in accord with rule data defined by a billable party and said invoice processing party, said rule data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered

automatically evaluating said electronic invoice in accord with said rule data;

automatically electronically notifying said billing party of results of said evaluation;

automatically generating payment data for an electronic payment and designating said electronic invoice as paid, if said electronic invoice satisfies said evaluation; and

automatically generating invoice analysis reports for said billable party utilizing said paid electronic invoice.

15.   (Currently Amended) A computerized system for automatically generating payment for electronic billing data, comprising:

means for automatically obtaining billing data in an electronic format from a billing party for a billable party, said billing data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered;

means for automatically comparing said billing data with rule data defined by said billable party, said rule data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered; and

means for automatically authorizing generation of payment data if said billing data satisfies said comparison with said rule data.

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code for instructing a computer to operate as follows:

    automatically obtaining billing data in an electronic format from a billing party for a billable party, said billing data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered;

    automatically comparing said billing data with rule data defined by said billable party; said rule data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered; and

    automatically authorizing generation of payment data if said billing data satisfies said comparison with said rule data.

17.   (Original) The computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code for instructing a computer to operate of claim 16, further comprising automatically electronically notifying said billing party if said billing data does not satisfy said comparison with said rule data, said billing and rule data including qualitative data which identifies the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party.

18.   (New) A computerized method of automatically generating payment for electronic billing data, said method comprising the steps of:

    automatically obtaining billing data in an electronic format from a billing party for a billable party, said billing data including a descriptive entry corresponding to the service or commodity provided;

    automatically comparing said billing data with rule data defined by said billable party; said rule data containing a code substantively identifying approved ones of said service or commodity; and

    automatically authorizing generation of payment data if said billing data satisfies said comparison with said rule data, said rule data are comparison statements stored in a rules database.